

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 033901 TOSEC 020003

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 2243 ACTION SECSTATE INFO WHITE
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QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2243

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DEPARTMENT PASS SENATOR PERCY'S OFFICE FOR MRS. JACOBSEN

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY (ENROUTE)

USUN FOR YOUNG

CIA FOR TURNER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: CONVERSATIONS OF SENATOR CHARLES H. PERCY WITH
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN AND GOI FOREIGN
SECRETARY

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1. THE FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF CONVERSATIONS SENATOR PERCY
HAD FEBRUARY 14 WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS OF IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN
AND THE INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY. SENATOR PERCY WAS IN NEW
DELHI AS A MEMBER OF THE US DELEGATION TO FUNERAL OF THE
LATE INDIAN PRESIDENT.

2. CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OF IRAN KHALATBARY:

THE MINISTER SAID THAT INITIALLY WITH THE CHANGE IN THE US ADMINISTRATION THE FUTURE OF IRANIAN-US RELATIONS WAS NOT CLEAR. PRESENTLY IRAN IS LESS CONCERNED BUT THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP IS STILL NOT CLEAR. IRAN IS WAITING TO SEE WHO WILL BE MADE THE NEW US AMBASSADOR. THE MINISTER STRONGLY URGED THE NEED FOR A MEETING BETWEEN THE SHAH AND PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH WOULD CLARIFY THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. SENATOR PERCY NOTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD SAID THAT IN HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE HE PREFERRED NOT TO TRAVEL. THE FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED THAT HE APPRECIATED THIS POINT BUT URGED THE NEED FOR A MEETING TO BE WORKED OUT. ON IRANIAN-US RELATIONS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THEY HAVE EVERY REASON TO BE GOOD, AS OUR INTERESTS CONVERGED. THE FOREIGN MINISTER THEN TURNED TO IRAN'S IMAGE IN THE US PRESS, AND COMPLAINED ABOUT A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING. SENATOR PERCY THEN REFERRED TO IRANIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS AND SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO CLARIFY THIS, PARTICULARLY LARGE-SCALE PURCHASES OF USSR EQUIPMENT WHICH WERE LIKELY TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD, TO WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER MADE NO COMMENT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A US CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ARRIVING IN IRAN WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER THEN TURNED TO IRAQ AND OBSERVED THAT IT APPEARED THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO AVOID BEING OVERLY DEPENDENT UPON THE SOVIETS AND THE EAST. HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE SOME US RATHER THAN SOVIET AIRPLANES WHEN HE LAST STOPPED AT THE AIRPORT AT BHAGDAD.

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4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER DESCRIBED THE CHOICE OF THE US DELEGATION TO THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE INDIAN PRESIDENT AS A "DELICATE GESTURE" WHICH THE INDIANS WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE.

5. CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OF AFGHANISTAN NAIM:
THE CONVERSATION WAS DEVOTED LARGELY TO PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS. THE MINISTER DESCRIBED THE TALKS BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AS HAVING BEEN POSITIVE BUT NOTED THE ABSENCE OF SUFFICIENT FOLLOW-THROUGH. HE EXPLAINED THE CURRENT LACK OF FORWARD MOVEMENT AS DUE TO THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN PAKISTAN. WHEN THEY WERE COMPLETED, HE EXPECTED THAT THE QUESTION OF PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS WOULD AGAIN BE ADDRESSED. HE REPEATEDLY SAID THAT HE WAS "NOT PESSIMISTIC" ABOUT THE FUTURE. THE MINISTER STRONGLY DENIED ACCUSATIONS THAT AFGHANISTAN WAS TRAINING INSURGENTS AGAINST PAKISTAN. HE DESCRIBED AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND INDIA AS GOOD. HE BELIEVED THAT INDIA SHOULD DEAL MORE FAVORABLY WITH ITS SMALL NEIGHBORS, SUCH AS BANGLADESH.

ON AFGHANISTAN-US RELATIONS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO REAFFIRM THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. SENATOR PERCY ASSURED THE MINISTER OF THE GOODWILL OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN THIS REGARD. THE SENATOR SAID THAT COUNTRIES SUCH AS AFGHANISTAN COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN NORTH-SOUTH MATTERS AND THAT THE UNITED STATES AND AFGHANISTAN SHOULD WORK TOGETHER IN THIS CONTEXT.

6. CONVERSION WITH INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGHAT MEHTA: THE FOREIGN SECRETARY COMMENTED AT LENGTH ON CHINA AND SAID THAT MOST COUNTRIES (INCLUDING INDIA, USSR, US AND FRANCE) HAVE ERRED IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF CHINA. HE NOTED THE PROBLEM WITHIN CHINA CAUSED BY CONFLICTS OF GOALS OF IDEOLOGY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THE SECRETARY STATED THAT PRESENTLY THERE WAS NO PROBLEM PRESENTED TO INDIA BY THE PRESENCE OF CHINESE TROOPS IN ITS NORTHERN BORDER AREAS, BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTED THAT CHINA WAS HAVING A SERIOUS IMPACT ON TIBETAN CULTURE. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN MOSCOW AND CONCLUDED THAT SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS WERE NOT IMPROVING. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT WHILE CHINA SOUGHT A VARIETY OF BENEFITS IN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US, THE PRC WANTED TO MAINTAIN ITS ANTI-IMPERIALIST POSTURE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO OPPOSE BOTH OF THE SUPER POWERS. CHINA, HE SAID, SAW ITSELF AS THE LEADER OF THE NON-WHITE WORLD AND REGARDED THE SOVIETS AND INDIANS AS IMPEDIMENTS TO THE FULFILLMENT OF THAT ROLE.

7. SENATOR PERCY SAID THAT INDIA COULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. HE THEN SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE RADICALS SUCH AS LIBYA AND IRAQ NOT BE ALLOWED TO DOMINATE THE THIRD WORLD.

8. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT INDIA HAD DEVELOPED A NEW PATTERN OF RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD. HE NOTED THAT INDIA, UNLIKE THE UAR, HAD RECEIVED SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT BUT WITHOUT SOVIET ADVISORS. DESPITE WHAT CHINA SAID, INDIA WAS NOT EXPANSIONIST VIS A VIS THE THIRD WORLD. INDIA, UNLIKE CHINA, DID NOT SEEK TO DESTABILIZE OTHER COUNTRIES.

9. SENATOR PERCY DESCRIBED THE PROBLEM OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE UN CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES AND SAID THAT INDIA COULD HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

10. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS SOMEWHAT POSITIVE IN HIS REMARKS ABOUT INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS. HE THOUGHT THE

CLIMATE HAD IMPROVED FOLLOWING TALKS ON THE SALAL RIVER
PROBLEM. INDIA RECOGNIZED THAT FOR IT TO PLAY A USEFUL
ROLE IN THE THIRD WORLD ANY PROBLEMS IN THE SUB-CONTINENT
HAD TO BE RESOLVED. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT RELATIONS WITH
PAKISTAN WOULD IMPROVE AFTER ELECTIONS. INDIA HAS OFFERED
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TRANSIT FACILITIES TO PAKISTAN TO BANGLADESH AND NEPAL,
AND SOUGHT COMPARABLE FACILITIES THROUGH PAKISTAN TO IRAN.
INDIA HAS BEEN VERY RESTRAINED IN NOT REACTING TO SUCH
THINGS AS THE PAKISTAN "WHITE PAPER ON KASHMIR" WHICH WAS
UNDERSTOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF PAKISTAN'S ELECTIONS. SIMILARLY
INDIA WAS PREPARED TO LIVE WITH THE NON-PROSECUTION OF THE
HIJACKERS OF THE INDIAN AIRLINE PLANE. THE SECRETARY AGREED
WITH SENATOR PERCY THAT UN FORCES COULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM
KASHMIR.

11. ON AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN RELATIONS THE FOREIGN SECRETARY
SAID THERE HAD BEEN A DEESCALATION OF VARIOUS PROBLEMS BUT
NO SOLUTION TO THEM. ONE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE
PAKISTAN ELECTIONS WERE COMPLETED.

12. DEPARTMENT PLEASE DISTRIBUTE Laterally AS APPROPRIATE.

13. CLEARED IN DRAFT BY SENATOR PERCY.
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